

We invest in Conservation, providing over \$979 million for conservation efforts and community development. This bill restores many of the programs slated for major reductions in the president's request, including the Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative, Resource Conservation and Development, and the watershed programs which are funded \$75 million—more than double last year's levels.

This investment will continue our efforts to improve both funding and access to conservation programs that take environmentally sensitive land out of farming and encourage environmentally friendly practices on working farmland.

Finally, I would like to congratulate my Chairwoman, ROSA DELAURO, for the outstanding job she's done in stewarding and leading the important work of our Subcommittee.

And I would be remiss if I did not recognize and thank the staff of Subcommittee—Martha Foley, Leslie Barrack, Adrienne Simonson, Diem-Linh Joan and Kelly Wade of the Majority staff; and Martin Delgado, Jamie Swafford and Dave Gibbons on the Minority staff, and of course, Michael Reed, and Niki Newberry of my staff.

This is a good bill, and I urge my colleagues to support the FY08 Agriculture Appropriations bill.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, in accordance with House earmark reforms, I would like to place into the record a listing of Congressionally-directed projects in my home state of Idaho that are contained within the report to the FY08 Agriculture, Rural Development and FDA Appropriations bill.

I'd like to take just a few minutes to describe why I supported these projects and why they are valuable to the nation and its taxpayers.

First, the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) grants included below are targeted to our nation's Land Grant Colleges. In the case of Idaho, these funds are used by the University of Idaho to conduct research on a variety of crops important to the Pacific Northwest. I have also supported research in Washington and Oregon because their research is invaluable to my constituents as well.

In assessing the value of these requests, there are some important considerations that must be made. World labor standards and costs are far below those of the U.S. Our nation's farmers are subjected to far more stringent environmental regulations than those of many of our competitors. Input costs in the U.S. far surpass those of other nations. And energy prices, including farm diesel, are rising dramatically.

So how can a U.S. farmer remain competitive in a global market? He can do it by achieving greater productivity and efficiency, increased yields, and better defenses against diseases. These are the very things that agriculture research funding delivers for U.S. producers—and for U.S. consumers.

If you want to rely on foreign nations for our food in the way we rely on them for our oil, then by all means eliminate these important agriculture research programs. But if you believe, as I do, that maintaining a domestic capability to produce our food is a national security issue, then you ought to support these research programs and fight for their continuation.

The second entity that receives the bulk of these funds is the Agriculture Research Service (ARS) and its stations across rural America. In Idaho, these institutions are conducting vital research into some of our most important crops—sugar, potatoes, small fruits, and aquaculture. I encourage all of my colleagues to visit an ARS station to see firsthand the value of this research. If you do, you will learn that these researchers are doing amazing things with very limited budgets. These projects are usually small in terms of their funding, but the benefits that flow from that research cannot be measured in dollars alone.

Four of the projects below are funded through the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). The first program, Potato Cyst Nematode (PCN) Detection and Eradication, provides funding that is critical to saving the potato industry, both in Idaho and across the nation. In August 2006, PCN was discovered in our country for the first time on approximately 1,000 acres in Eastern Idaho. PCN is a major pest of potato crops and is one of the most destructive and difficult pests to control. If left uncontrolled, this pest can result in devastating crop yield losses of up to 80 percent. Without this funding, the pest's significant risk of dispersion could lead to a devastating impact on our nation's agriculture production and exports.

The Greater Yellowstone Brucellosis funding is particularly critical to my home state of Idaho. Idaho recently regained its Brucellosis Class Free Status and these funds are critical to continuing a management plan that will allow Idaho to maintain brucellosis free status.

The Tri-State Predator control funding is hardly a handout to ranchers. The federal government forced wolf reintroduction on Idaho and other western states and it is duty-bound to pay for the deadly and gruesome impacts of this decision.

The funding for the Nez Perce Bio-Control Center will enable the Center to utilize organism-rearing technology to improve mass rearing capabilities for biological control organisms, thus providing long-term management of invasive weeds.

Another project on this list is the Idaho One-Plan. The Idaho One-Plan is a unique collaboration of agencies, industries, and associations dedicated to assisting Idaho farmers and ranchers in their continuing natural resource stewardship responsibilities. The program was developed jointly with state and federal resource agencies, the University of Idaho Cooperative Extension program, the Environmental Protection Agency, and local commodity groups. It's a successful program that has enormous value to not only the Idaho agriculture community and the environment, but to other states that might be interested in a similar collaborative process.

The final project is the Idaho Food Bank Facility Acquisition and Expansion Program. Currently, the Idaho Food Bank, located in Pocatello, Idaho, cannot process all of the donated food and often turns away delivery trucks and donations due to lack of space. An expansion of the food bank would allow more needy families in Eastern Idaho to utilize the food bank's services.

Mr. Chairman, any effort to remove these projects from the bill would not only result in zero savings to taxpayers, it would stop dead these important efforts to enhance and protect our nation's food supply.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide a list of Congressionally-directed projects in my region and an explanation of my support for them.

(1) \$6,750,000 for APHIS Potato Cyst Nematode Detection and Eradication.

(2) \$854,000 for CSREES Increasing Shelf Life of Agricultural Commodities (WA, OR, ID).

(3) \$96,994 for ARS National Plant Germplasm Program—Aberdeen, ID.

(4) \$628,843 for ARS Aquaculture—Barley Sustainable Feeds—Aberdeen, ID.

(5) \$1,093,728 for ARS Aquaculture Rainbow Trout Research—Aberdeen, ID.

(6) \$99,000 for ARS Aquaculture Sustainable Feeds—Aberdeen, ID.

(7) \$756,000 for CSREES Aquaculture (WA, ID).

(8) \$728,000 for CSREES Barley for Rural Development (MT, ID).

(9) \$900,000 for APHIS Greater Yellowstone Interagency Brucellosis Committee.

(10) \$198,000 for NRCS Idaho One-Plan

(11) \$250,000 for APHIS Nez Perce Bio-Control Center.

(12) \$1,300,000 for APHIS Tri-State Predator Control in Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming.

(13) \$558,000 for CSREES Cool Season Legume Research (ID, WA, ND).

(14) \$446,000 for CSREES Grass Seed Cropping for Sustainable Agriculture Research (WA, OR, ID).

(15) 439,000 for CSREES Small Fruit Research (OR, WA, ID).

(16) \$702,592 for ARS Sugarbeet Research—Kimberly, ID.

(17) \$634,000 for CSREES STEEP III Water Quality in the Northwest.

(18) \$6,371,000 for CSREES Wood Utilization (OR, MS, NC, MN, ME, MI, ID, TN, AK, WV).

(19) \$1,482,000 for CSREES Potato Research.

(20) Idaho Food Bank Facility Acquisition and Expansion Program.

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Chairman, I rise to commend Chairwoman DELAURO for her excellent work on this bill and to address a specific issue that is of growing importance to my constituents.

This March, the light brown apple moth (LBAM), an exotic pest native to Australia, was discovered in California. The moth has been damaging to growers in Santa Cruz, Santa Clara, and San Mateo Counties in my district. In Santa Cruz County, nearly 6,000 moths have now been detected.

This pest can affect a wide variety of plants, flowers, fruits and vegetables, and virtually any crop with a leaf is a potential host.

In order to halt the spread of this pest, USDA has imposed a quarantine in California counties where the moth has been found. Growers in these counties must subject their operations to a visual inspection to demonstrate that their facilities are not infested before they can be cleared to ship produce. For growers within 1.5 miles of a confirmed discovery of the moth, each shipment must be cleared by an inspection.

Canada and Mexico have also placed restrictions on the import of California products.

The quarantine and restrictions are a burden on growers in my district as well as on State and county agriculture officials, but it is a burden they recognize is necessary to prevent the further spread of the light brown apple moth.